

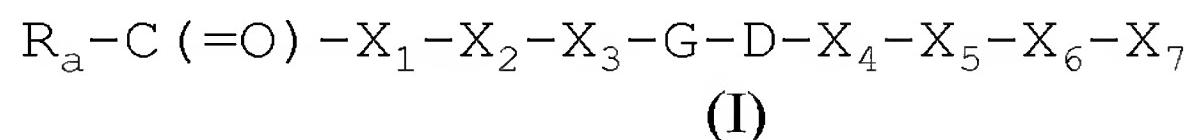
### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 1 given comprising a peptidic vector and at least one fluorescein dye, wherein the peptidic vector and the fluorescein dye are coupled, and wherein said peptidic vector is defined by formula I:~~



wherein Formula I comprises comprising two cyclising bridges,  
~~wherein X<sub>3</sub>, G and D are defined as in claim 1, and wherein~~

R<sub>a</sub> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>- forming a bridge to one of either X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>4</sub> or X<sub>6</sub>,  
wherein

n represents a positive integer from 1 to 10, and

X<sub>1</sub> represents a bond or 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 amino acid residues, wherein one amino acid residue is optionally functionalised with a spacer moiety, or said amino acid residue possesses a functional side-chain ~~such as chosen from~~ an acid or amine group,

~~X<sub>2</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> represent independently is an amino acid residues capable of residue~~ forming a cyclising bridge to one of R<sub>a</sub>, X<sub>4</sub> or X<sub>6</sub>;

X<sub>3</sub> represents arginine or N-methylarginine,

G represents glycine,

D represents aspartic acid,

X<sub>4</sub> is an amino acid residue forming a cyclising bridge to one of R<sub>a</sub>, X<sub>2</sub> or X<sub>6</sub>;

X<sub>5</sub> represents a hydrophobic amino acid or derivatives thereof, and

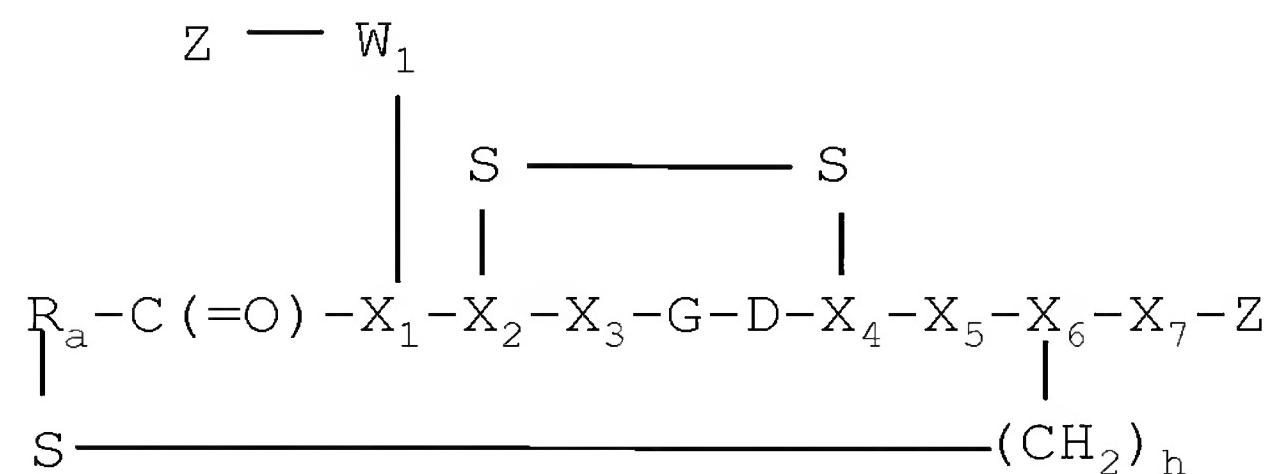
X<sub>6</sub> represents an amino acid residue ~~capable of~~ forming a cyclising bridge to either R<sub>a</sub>, X<sub>2</sub> or X<sub>4</sub>, and

X<sub>7</sub> represents a spacer or biomodifier moiety or is absent, wherein said biomodifier comprises a monodisperse polyethylene glycol (PEG) building block comprising 1 to 10 units of said building block;

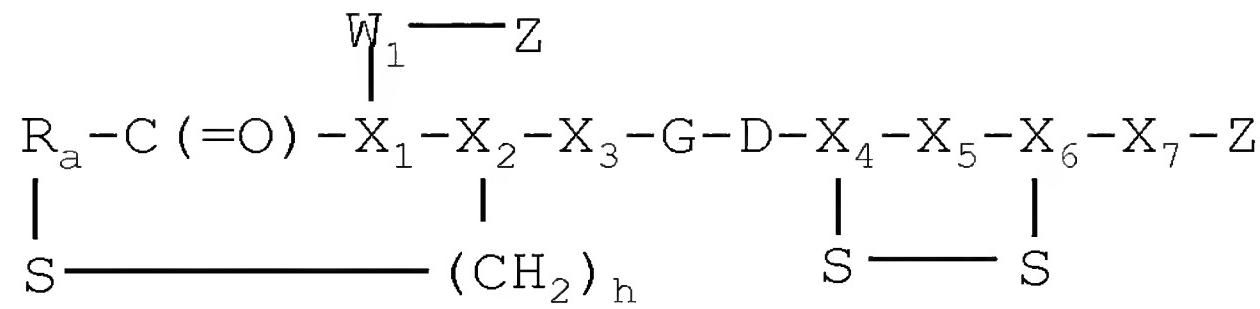
and,

the compound further comprising at least one group Z, representing a fluorescein dye, linked to one or more of the groups X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>6</sub> or X<sub>7</sub> optionally via a spacer group.

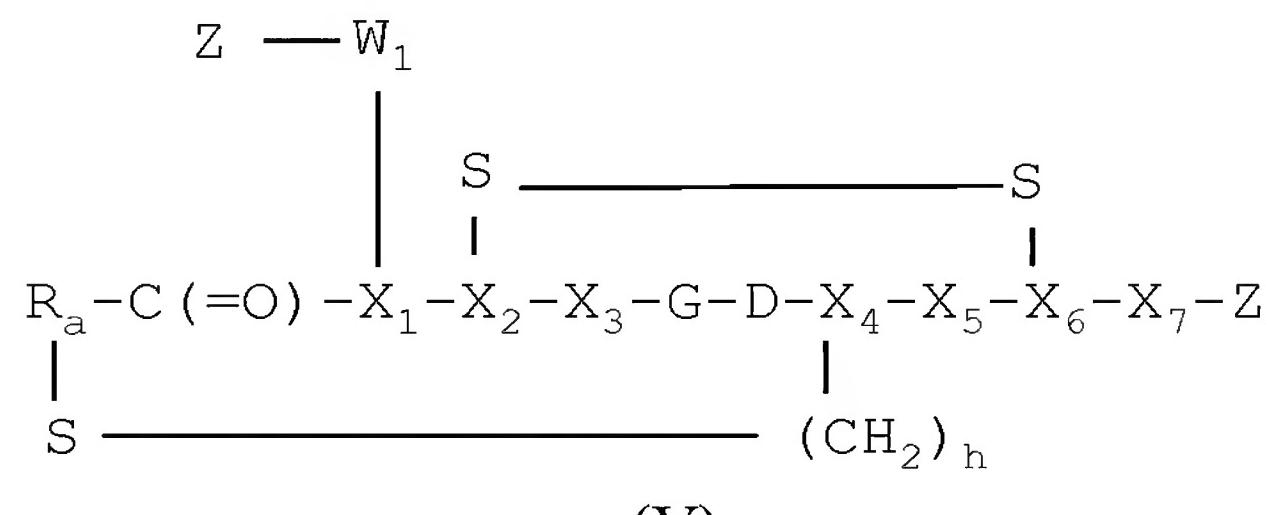
3. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2 selected from one of the formulae formulas;



(III)



(IV)



(V)

wherein  $R_a$ ,  $X_4$ ,  $X_5$ ,  $G$ , and  $D$ ,  $X_6$ , and  $X_7$  are as defined in ~~claims~~ claim 1 and 2 and wherein

$X_2$ ,  $X_4$  and  $X_6$  represent amino acid residues ~~capable of forming~~ which together form a disulphide or a thioether bond as shown in Formulae III, IV or V,

$W_1$  is a spacer moiety or is absent,

$h$  is a positive integer 1 or 2,

and wherein at least one of the  $Z$  groups is present representing a fluorescein dye.

4. (Original) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein  $R_a$  represents  $-(\text{CH}_2)-$

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5. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X<sub>1</sub> represents an amino acid residue with a functional side-chain ~~such as chosen from~~ an acid or amine group, the amino acid being selected from aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid, homolysine or a diaminoalicylic-diaminoacylic acid or derivatives thereof.
6. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>4</sub> and X<sub>6</sub> independently represent a cysteine or homocysteine residue.
7. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X<sub>3</sub> represents arginine.
8. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X<sub>5</sub> represents phenylalanine, tyrosine, a 3-iodo-tyrosine or naphthylalanine.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients or diluents.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds of any of claim 1 for use as an~~ An optical imaging contrast agent which comprises the compound of claim 1.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently amended) A method of generating images of a human or animal body by optical imaging involving administering the ~~a~~-contrast agent of claim 11 to said body, and subsequently generating an image of at least a part of said body ~~to which said contrast agent~~

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~~has distributed, characterized in that said contrast agent comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.~~